



NEWS RELEASE

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BARRINGTON COMMUNITIES WIN MAJOR DECISION AGAINST CN'S "MINOR" PURCHASE OF EJ&E LINE

(Barrington, IL) The coalition representing the Barrington area communities won its first victory in the fight to force Canadian National Railway Corporation to address the negative impacts the purchase of Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company will have on the region. In what is now sure to be a long process, the U.S. Surface Transportation Board has ruled an Environmental Impact Statement must be conducted before the sale is approved.

According to the ruling, an environmental review is necessary because the increased train traffic "...would substantially exceed the Board's thresholds..." under the National Environmental Policy Act. The impact on the Barrington region exceeds the board's freight traffic thresholds, and as a result, NEPA requires the STB to take environmental considerations into account in its decision-making.

"We're pleased the STB ordered the EIS be done. The agency recognizes the need for it because of increased traffic and the affect it would have on our communities," explains Karen Darch, coalition spokesperson and Barrington Village president.

The Village of Barrington and eight other community villages and townships formed the Barrington Communities Against CN Rail Congestion upon learning of CN's plans to buy the EJ&E line. In response to CN's filing, the coalition quickly mounted a public information campaign prompting residents to get involved.

"Residents were quick to realize that this is not only the "Battle of Barrington," but the "Battle for Barrington," as we know it. In its decision to require an EIS, the board expressly noted that one of the factors they based that decision on was the number of expressions of concern for the possible environmental impacts," says Darch. "Currently, residents are in contact with their state and federal legislators urging them to get in front of this issue."

During the EIS process, residents will have an opportunity to get more involved through public hearings. To date, the STB has not released a schedule for the EIS process, but estimates it could take from 18 months to three years to complete.

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